

Message Text

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ACTION PC-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 CPR-01 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2313

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DEPT PASS TO ACTION/PEACE CORPS GENERAL COUNSEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OGEN MU US

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT WITH OMAN GOVERNMENT

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED AMENDMENT OF PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT WITH LEGAL DIRECTOR ZAHIR AL KINDI OF OMAN FONMIN. AL KINDI, AND OTHER FONMIN OFFICIALS HAVE STUDIED FULL TEXT OF ORIGINAL AGREEMENT WHICH WE PRESENTED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE IN MARCH 1976. FONMIN HAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT CHANGE MOST OF AGREEMENT BUT HAS DIFFICULTIES WITH PARA 4, WHICH RELATES TO CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES OF PC REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS STAFF.

2. ACCORDING TO AL KINDI, ACTING HEAD OF FONMIN (DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS SALIM AHMAD KHALFAN) SEEKS CLARIFICATION (AND POSSIBLE RESTRICTION) OF DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES ACCORDED TO PC REPRESENTATIVE. KHALFAN WOULD LIKE TO PLACE A LIMIT OF R.O. 500 (ABOUT \$1450) ON PERSONAL PROPERTY THAT CAN BE IMPORTED DUTY-FREE BY PC REP AND HIS STAFF, AND WOULD DELETE PHRASE COMPARING PC REP TO PERSONNEL OF COMPARABLE RANK IN U.S. MISSION. FONMIN WISHES TO REDRAFT THE THIRD SENTENCE IN PARA 4 TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

" THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN WILL ACCORD THE PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS STAFF THE SAME TREATMENT

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WITH THE PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTIES OR OTHER CHANGES ON

PERSONAL EFFECTS UP TO A VALUE OF RIALS OMANI 500 INTRODUCED INTO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN FOR THEIR OWN USE AND WILL ACCORD SUCH PERSONNEL OF UNITED STATES PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS PERFORMING FUNCTIONS HEREUNDER THE SAME TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTIES OR OTHER CHARGES ON PERSONAL EFFECTS UP TO A VALUE OF RIALS OMANI 500 INTRODUCED INTO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN FOR THEIR OWN USE AS IS ACCORDED VOLUNTEERS HERE-UNDER."

3. WE POINTED OUT TO AL KINDI THAT ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS OR PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON PERSONAL EFFECTS OF REPRESENTATIVE IS CONTRARY TO NORMAL PRACTICE AND THAT WE DOUBTED THESE CHANGES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG. AL KINDI UNDERSTOOD OUR POINT OF VIEW BUT SAID THAT KHALFAN WAS NOT WILLING TO LEAVE ORIGINAL TEXT UNCHANGED. AL KINDI SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR DISCUSS AMENDMENT TO PC AGREEMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI TO IRON OUT THESE DIFFICULTIES.

4. ZAWAWI IS EXPECTED REMAIN ABROAD FOR NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, BUT WE WILL BE SEEKING EARLY MEETING WITH FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY AL ALAWI OR WITH KHALFAN TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER.

5. WHATEVER COMMENTS WASHINGTON MAY HAVE WOULD BE OF MOST USE IF RECEIVED THIS WEEK, BEFORE WE AGAIN DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH OMANIS.
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